

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method in a computer for identifying common accounts, the method comprising:
 assigning by the computer a first user identifier to a first account, the first account being associated with a first node;
 assigning by the computer a second user identifier to a second account, the second account being associated with a second node;
 receiving by the computer a request from the second node that includes the first user identifier; and
 when the first account is not already associated to the second node,
 determining by the computer whether the first and second accounts represent the same account; and
 when it is determined that the first and second accounts represent the same account, combining by the computer the first and second accounts into a single account.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining includes requesting a user to indicate whether the first and second accounts represent the same account.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 including identifying the second account to the user by specifying a user name associated with the second account.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein when the user indicates that the first and second accounts represent the same account, requesting that the user provide credentials associated with the second account.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each account has a user and the user of the first account is the same as the user of the second account.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each account has a user and the user of the first account is not the same as the user of the second account.

7. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein the combining includes deleting one of the accounts and assigning the user identifier assigned to the deleted account to the remaining account.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 including associating with the remaining account a resource that was associated with the deleted account.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 including:
when it is determined that the first and second accounts do not represent the same account, associating the first account with the second node.

10. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer of generating a common account, one account being associated with a node, the method comprising:
receiving by the computer information relating to an account; and
when the account to which the information is related is not currently associated with the node,
determining by the computer whether the account associated with the node and the ~~node-account~~ node-account not currently associated with the node should be common accounts; and
when it is determined that the accounts should be common accounts,
directing by the computer the combining of the accounts into a single account.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the determining includes requesting a user to indicate whether the accounts are common accounts.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the determining includes identifying the account associated with the node to the user by specifying a user name associated with that account.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein each account is associated with one or more user identifiers.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the information relating to the account is a user identifier associated with the account.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 including determining that the account to which the information is related is not currently associated with the node by receiving an indication of that account from another computer.

16. (Previously Presented) A method in a computer system for identifying common accounts, the method comprising:

receiving by the computer system a user identifier from a user;

sending by the computer system a log on request to a server computer, the request including the received user identifier, but not including an account identifier;

receiving by the computer system a log on response from the server, the response including an account identifier associated with the received user identifier;
and

when the received account identifier does not match an account identifier previously stored at the node, prompting the user by the computer system to indicate whether the account identified by the received account identifier should be

the same account as an account identified by an account identifier previously stored at the node.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 including when the user indicates that the accounts should be common accounts, sending a log on request to the server computer, the request including the received user identifier and an account identifier previously stored at the node.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the prompting occurs only if at least one account identifier was previously stored at the node.

19-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer system to generate a common account, one account being associated with a node, by a method comprising:

receiving at the node information relating to an account; and

when the account to which the information is related is not currently associated with the node,

determining whether the account associated with the node and the ~~node~~ account not currently associated with the node should be common accounts; and

when it is determined that the accounts should be common accounts, directing the combining of the accounts into a single account.

53. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the determining includes requesting a user to indicate whether the accounts are common accounts.

54. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 53 wherein the determining includes identifying the account associated with the node to the user by specifying a user name associated with that account.

55. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein each account is associated with one or more user identifiers.

56. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 55 wherein the information relating to the account is a user identifier associated with the account.

57. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 52 including determining that the account to which the information is related is not currently associated with the node by receiving an indication of that account from another computer.

58. (Currently Amended) A computer system for generating a common account, one account being associated with a node, comprising:

means for receiving at the node information relating to an account; and

means for, when the account to which the information is related is not currently associated with the node, determining whether the account associated with the node and the ~~node-account~~ not currently associated with the node should be common accounts; and when it is determined that the accounts should be common accounts, directing the combining the accounts into a single account.

59. (Original) The computer system of claim 58 wherein the means for determining includes requesting a user to indicate whether the accounts are common accounts.

60. (Original) The computer system of claim 59 wherein the means for determining includes means for identifying the account associated with the node to the user by specifying a user name associated with that account.

61. (Original) The computer system of claim 58 wherein each account is associated with one or more user identifiers.

62. (Currently Amended) The computer system ~~medium~~ of claim 61 wherein the information relating to the account is a user identifier associated with the account.

63. (Currently Amended) The computer system ~~medium~~ of claim 58 including means for determining that the account to which the information is related is not currently associated with the node by receiving an indication of that account from another computer.

64-72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) A method in a client computer for log on of a user, comprising:

receiving a user identifier and password;

sending a log on request to a server computer, the request including an account identifier when the client computer has an account identifier associated with the received user identifier; and

when a response indicating that the log on was successful is received, the response including an account identifier,

when the received account identifier does not match an account identifier previously cached at the client computer, prompting the user whether the received account identifier and a previously cached account identifier represent the same account; and

when the user indicates that the accounts represent the same account, combining the accounts.

74. (New) A computer system for identifying common accounts, comprising:
- a component that creates a first account for a first user, assigns a first user identifier to the first account, and associates the first account with a first node from which the first user requests to create an account, and creates a second account for a second user, assigns a second user identifier to the second account, and associates the second account with a second node from which the second user requests to create an account;
 - a component that receives a request from the first node that includes the second user identifier; and
 - a component that determines whether the first and second accounts represent the same account by prompting the second user at the first node and, when it is determined that the first account and the second account represent the same account, combines the first account and the second account into a single account wherein both the first user identifier and second user identifier are associated with the combined account.